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On the Occasion of his Retirement*

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国 近 三 吾 教 授
Professor Dr. S. Kunichika

Emeritus Professor Sango Kunichika

Having completed 37 years of service at Kyoto University, Professor Sango Kunichika retired on March 31, 1972. On the next day he was conferred an emeritus professor by the University.

Dr. Kunichika was born on February 18, 1909, in a small village in Hiroshima Prefecture. In Hiroshima High School, his interest in organic chemistry was first excited. He then entered Kyoto University, and in March, 1935, he graduated from the University with his major in chemistry. His first achievement was in the success of the synthesis of acetylformoin under the direction of the late Professor Ryuzaburo Nodzu, Department of Chemistry of the Faculty of Science. He was appointed a research assistant in April, 1935. He joined the Institute for Chemical Research, Kyoto University in May, 1938, and was appointed a lecturer in April, 1940, and an assistant professor in February, 1944. In September, 1948, he was conferred a D. Sc. from Kyoto University for his study on the synthesis of acetaldehyde from acetylene by the vapor phase method. For these years, he was concerned with the studies on acetylene and its derivatives. In June, 1951, he was promoted to a full professor at Kyoto University. In following years his interest was directed to the exploitation of new synthetic methods of various monomers and to the elucidation of the reactions used for the syntheses with many remarkable academic achievements.

Since 1955, Dr. Kunichika gave lectures on polymer chemistry at the graduate school of science, and supervised dissertation works of many graduate students. In 1965, he visited the United States of America to give a lecture on the new synthesis of methyl methacrylate from propylene.

For three years from December, 1964 to December, 1967 Dr. Kunichika served as Director of the Institute and above all contributed very much to the move of the Institute from Takatsuki to Uji. In December, 1970, he was nominated again as the Director, and he aided in the solution of many problems until his retirement. He also showed his administrative ability as a member of the University Council and various committees on the campus. Further, he served as Director of the Kinki Area Chapter of the Chemical Society of Japan and that of the Society of Synthetic Organic Chemistry, Japan.

Owing to his sincere, thoughtful and warm personality, Dr. Kunichika communicated well not only with the older members of the University but had a deep understanding with the students as well. His participation in student activities and his personal contact with the students helped to deepen this understanding. His motto was "to be deliberate in council and prompt in action".

This collection of papers by his colleagues, former and present associates, and students is dedicated to Dr. Kunichika in honor of his retirement.

July, 1972

Eiji Suito

Director

Institute for Chemical Research

Kyoto University

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